

EXHIBIT 1 - CLEAN AMENDED SPECIFICATION PAGES

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to the drawing wherein like numerals indicate like elements, there is shown in FIG. 1 a first embodiment of the present invention: Apparatus 10 is a telephone controlling system which includes light sensor 12, controller 14 and timer 16 as shown. Both the light sensor 12 and timer 16 communicate with controller 14 which in turn is coupled to an incoming/outgoing telephone line 15 and serves to enable and disable ringer 20 of telephone 18.

While timer 16 is shown in this embodiment, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that timer 16 need not be included in apparatus 10. That is, apparatus 10 could merely consist of light sensor 12 and controller 14 in communication with telephone 18 and ringer 20. Accordingly, connection 17 between timer 16 and controller 14 is shown as a dashed line.

Light sensor 12 may be a photovoltaic cell, a photo-transistor, a photo-resistor or other photo-sensitive component known in the art. As the level of ambient light changes, light sensor 12 provides controller 14 with a first signal which changes in accordance with the level of ambient light. When the ambient light reaches a predetermined level (preferably falling below a predetermined level), controller 14 will recognize that light sensor 12 is sending a first signal indicating that the ringer 20 should be disabled. The controller 14 will preferably respond to the first signal by disabling ringer 20 of telephone 18.

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Timer 16 may be a clock timer (such as a digital clock circuit) that provides a second signal to controller 14 indicative of a timing condition or set of conditions. For example, the second signal may be representative of periodic pre-set times at which the

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controller 14 should sequentially enable and disable
40 ringer 20 of telephone 18. Alternatively, timer 16 may
be a multi-day clock timer and provide a second signal to
controller 14 indicating that at varying times on varying
days the ringer 20 of telephone 18 should be enabled and
disabled.

45 In apparatus 10, controller 14 will enable and
disable ringer 20 of telephone 18 in response to a first
signal from light sensor 12 and/or a second signal from
timer 16. Those of ordinary skill in the art, however,
will appreciate that controller 14 could be adapted in
50 such a manner to be responsive only to the first signal
from light sensor 12 or the second signal from timer 16.

Another embodiment of the present invention is
shown in FIG. 2 and includes light sensor 12 and timer 16
in communication with controller 26. Light sensor 12 may
55 be a photovoltaic cell, a photo-transistor a photo-
resistor or other photo-sensitive component as discussed
above with respect to apparatus 10. Timer 16 is
preferably substantially the same as timer 16 of FIG. 1.

60 Unlike apparatus 10 in FIG. 1, apparatus 22 of
FIG. 2 includes a recording device 34. Recording device
34 may be in the form of an answering machine, answering
service or the like. In the embodiment of the present
invention shown in FIG. 2, controller 26 coupled to
incoming/outgoing telephone line 15 preferably
65 disables ringer 32 of telephone 30 and enables recording
device 34 (via signal line 33) to answer any incoming
phone calls in response to a first signal from light
sensor 12 and/or second signal from timer 16.

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Préferably, recording device 34 is capable of playing back a recording to a calling party and is also capable of receiving and retaining a message from the calling party.

Reference is now made to Fig. 3 which shows an alternative embodiment of the present invention designated as apparatus 50. Apparatus 50 is a telephone controlling system, coupled to incoming/outgoing telephone line 15, which includes light sensor 12, timer 16 and recording device 54 in communication with controller 52. Timer 16 and light sensor 12 are substantially similar to timers and light sensors, respectively, of the previous embodiments of the present invention. As was the case with the previous embodiments of the present invention, controller 52, operates to disable ringer 32 of telephone 30 in response to first and/or second signals from light sensor 12 and timer 16, respectively.

Recording device 54 is preferably operable to play back a recording to a calling party which states, in pertinent part, "if this is an emergency, press '*'." This recording is provided to controller 52 via signal line 35 and, thereafter, to the calling party over the telephone line (not shown). Therefore, the calling party can opt to press the '*' button on his or her telephone handset to initiate an emergency sequence (or indicate that the call is a priority call). It is noted that the recording provided to the calling party may take on many forms as will be apparent to one skilled in the art from the above teaching. Further, one skilled in the art will recognize that it is not necessary to utilize the '*' button of the telephone as indicia that the emergency sequence should be initiated and that other means of initiating the emergency sequence are available (such as

using other keypad buttons or sequences of keypad buttons).

Should the calling party choose to initiate the emergency sequence by pressing the '*' button on his or